

important to Kentucky's maritime jobs, America's waterways play a crucial role in supporting the economy, transporting goods and people from point A to point B, and supplying communities with drinking water.

As the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator INHOFE understands just how critical our waterways are and the importance of maintaining them. That is why he has been working with Ranking Member BARBARA BOXER to craft the bipartisan 2016 Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA.

This responsible water resources bill authorizes more than two dozen Army Corps projects from the east coast to the west, and it is expected to save taxpayers \$6 million over the next decade. It is also completely paid for. The projects authorized in this bill range from strengthening our waterways' infrastructure to helping support safe and reliable drinking water sources. They also invest in priorities each of us cares about, such as improving public health and safety, enhancing commerce, and supporting America's ecosystems. Here is what I mean: By investing in flood control projects, dam maintenance, and drinking water infrastructure, this bill will enhance public health and safety. By investing in ports, harbors, locks, and dams, it will strengthen commerce. By investing in restoration and revitalization projects, from the Florida Everglades to the Los Angeles River, it will support America's natural ecosystems.

I am also pleased the bill supports several projects in Kentucky that are important to me, to my constituents, and to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. One will transfer aging infrastructure along the Green and Barren Rivers in Kentucky over to State and local entities so they can determine the best use of this infrastructure. Another will help my constituents in Paducah better protect themselves from flooding from the Ohio River by helping complete repairs to the city's flood protection infrastructure.

The bill also includes an important coal ash provision that will give States the authority to create their own coal ash permitting requirements and systems to ensure that coal ash is recycled and reused in a safe and effective way in accordance with current EPA guidelines.

To quote Senator INHOFE, the top Republican on the committee, this bill will "support our communities and expand our economy."

To quote Senator BOXER, the top Democrat on the committee, it will provide "a perfect vehicle to upgrade our water infrastructure."

I appreciate their work across the aisle to move this important water resources bill forward. Its passage will represent another bipartisan win for American transportation infrastructure. It is another example of what has been possible with a Senate that is back to work for the American people.

I look forward to its passage later today, and I would encourage our House colleagues to take action soon so we can send the bill to the President.

TRIBUTE TO TIM MITCHELL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, one final matter. I would like to say a few words about Tim Mitchell, who has hit a significant milestone in his Senate career this week: 25 years of service.

As the Democratic leader has noted on several occasions, Tim's love for baseball—and the Red Sox in particular—is hard to miss. How big a fan is Tim? Well, a few years back when the Sox won the World Series, the Democratic leader gave a shout-out to Tim when he offered the resolution honoring the team. "[I]f it were in order," he said then—which it wasn't, as Tim would be quick to note—"I would ask that . . . this resolution be passed with the name of 'Tim Mitchell' on it. . . . I consider myself a fan of baseball," the Democratic leader continued, "but I have never known a more rabid fan of a baseball team than Tim Mitchell, whom we depend on so very, very much to help us work through all we do in the Senate."

I have to say that this is an area where the Democratic leader and I absolutely agree. Tim has been a staple around here for a quarter of a century, working his way through some of the most difficult jobs in the Senate as part of the floor staff. To paraphrase Laura Dove, the Secretary for the majority, the work of Tim and his floor staff colleagues could be compared to that of a duck gliding through a pond. Above water, the duck appears to be moving through the pond effortlessly, but if you take a look below the surface, you will see its feet working—putting in difficult and often unrecognized efforts—to keep it afloat.

Tim certainly does so to keep this place afloat—coordinating with his majority counterpart Robert Duncan, sifting through heaps of paperwork, and putting in long hours that turn into late nights. Even on those late nights, Tim makes it a priority to not only make it home for family dinner but to prepare it too.

Tim, from what I hear, it is takeout night at your house. I would imagine tonight's dinner will be a little more special than usual, and I know your wife Alicia and your son Ben couldn't be prouder. Your Senate family is proud of you, too, and we thank you for these 25 years of dedication and service.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO TIM MITCHELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate those remarks of the Republican leader regarding Tim.

People have heard me talk about baseball and how I fell in love with baseball as a little boy, listening on the radio and the game of the day. I so wanted to be a baseball player. As time went on, as a young man in college, I realized I wasn't big enough, fast enough, or good enough to be the baseball player of my dreams, but that didn't take away my love for baseball.

Living in Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, we had a team, the Dodgers. We listened to the games and watched the games. In the Reno area, Northern Nevada, the team was the Giants. We in Southern Nevada didn't like the Giants. The days of Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale, Claude Osteen—those were the days of real baseball. Games were 2 to 1, 3 to 0, not these slugfests. We didn't have those then.

In coming back to Washington, in the many years I have been here, we had the Baltimore Orioles. I love their owner—a wonderful man—Peter Angelos. I have been disappointed that they haven't done better, but they are doing pretty well this year. I have followed them very closely. Of course, when the Nationals team came here, our attention was focused not entirely on Baltimore—because it was the only team around here—but also on the Nationals, and we divided our attention. Of course, I have been to the Nationals games, and it has been great. As the Republican leader and I have said many times, we bicker and fight on some things but never on baseball. We both watch the Nationals and follow what they do.

As everyone knows, Greg Maddux from Las Vegas is the best athlete ever to come out of Nevada. We have had some in Northern Nevada, and I recognized them also. Some of them played professional football. No one was as good as Greg Maddux, winning more than 350 games, which is unheard of today, a man of, as he would admit, average talent—average talent but a mind and such dedication and such composure and such confidence that he became one of the best of all time.

Tim and I have talked about all these things I have talked about regarding baseball. We have talked about Bryce Harper. We recognize he is not having a great year this year. They are afraid of him still. He has walked 104 times, which is unheard of in baseball, but his batting average is not as good as it was. But he was still the Most Valuable Player in baseball at age 22. He has been on the all-star team four or five times already in his young career.

Tim and I have talked about all of this, and as he knows, I like the Boston Red Sox, but I am not in the same league as Tim Mitchell. Tim is the Assistant Secretary for the minority and was for the majority, of course, during my many years as the Democratic leader. We have such a nice relationship. We can do our business when we